THE SHE-DEVIL OF Petticoat-Lane:

OR

A True and Perfect Relation of a Sad Accident which befel Mr. *Freeland* at the *Kings-Head* in *Petticoat-Lane* neat *White-Chappel*-Bars on *Friday* laſt, *July* 20. 1666.

Occaſioned (as it is ſuppoſed) by a Maid-Servant living in the Houſe; who, upon cauſe thereof was ſearched by the Neighbour-Women, and what was the effects thereof.

Atteſted by ſeveral Eminent Perſons, ſome of whoſe names are hereunto ſubſcribed.

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The SHEE-DEVIL OF Petticoat-Lane:

Or a

Relation of ſundry ſtrange Accidents in the Houſe of Mr. *Freeland*, on *Fryday* the 20th. of *July* laſt.

THis following Diſcourſe (being no doubt the effects of Witchcraft) would require a large Prologue, if the limits whereunto we are confined would permit it; as to ſhow what manner of people theſe Witches are, what ſtrange things have been done by them; of which I might produce many hundreds of examples; together with the ſad Cataſtrophe of ſuch people as deal in thoſe works of darkneſs: But being confined to a ſingle Sheet of Paper, we ſhall preſently fall to the work in hand.

This perſon, Mr. *Freeland* (a man whoſe honeſt civil carriage hath brought him to be of good repute amongſt his Neighbors) about the 16th. or 17th. of this preſent *July*, entertained into his Houſe a Maid-

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Servant, of about fourteen Years of Age; but after four dayes entertainment, found such dislike in her as to turn her away; But at the instant before her departure, two Men being at work in the Yard, one of them had two blows on the Back by a piece of Tyle, or Hewed Brick; of which mistrusting his Fellow, asked him the reason why he did so. The other denying it (as well he might) whilst he was busie at his Work, was served in the same manner by this stone Devil; who also blaming the other for abusing him, their feud might have encreased at length to blows, had they not been diverted by the breaking of the Glass-Windows; for now the Stones came out from the Yard into the House, not making Quarrels, but breaking Quarrels; and in a short space had so ordered the Window, that it was now become a perfect Summer-House. And one thing is to be observed, that these Stones never came in at the broken places, but alwayes took a fresh Pane or Quarrel, till such time that all was broke, which made one there present to say, *The Thrower had a good aim, or he could never have hit so right*: and which is more observable, when the Maid-Servant was within the House, then the Stones came flying inwards; but going into the Yard, then the Stones came as it were out of the House, that betwixt them both there wanted a Glazier to compose the Quarrels.

Whilst these things were in agitation, the Bungs and Corks out of the Buts in the Sellar began to fly, the Beer spurted out, and every thing appeared there in such a rate as threatned a general inundation in the

Sel-

Seller, the Brewers-Servant was present to put a *Remora* to what damages might acrew thereby: but (as he told me himself) endeavors were to little purpose for stopping one, two or three would want his help, so that not withstanding what means could be used, in a little space the Sellar was so overflown that it was above ankle height in beer.

Now this I must say in respect of Mr. *Freeland* that as for these strange effects of his beer, it may happen only by the ordinary course of Nature, as by putting Quicksilver into it, and other means as you may read in Mr. *Scot's Discovery of Witchcraft*; but this that I shall mention afterwards, I must conceive is more then comes in the compass of my belief, to think that there was nothing of VVitchcraft in it. For,

Presently after a Looking-Glass that stood on a Shelf in the Kitchin of its own accord flew out of the window into the yard, the good woman of the house, knowing it to be a necessary implement for dressing her in the morning, went and fetcht it in again, and to be the more sure thereof, clapt it on the dresser with a dish upon it, but that was of such little force to withstand those strong things then in agitation, that it flew out from under the dish, and struck one in the room a blow upon the shoulder.

But what is more strange, one *Rowland Bennet* sitting in a Drinking Room besides the Kitchen, a Flaggon that stood upon the Shelf, there came flying Circular, and struck him upon the Nose, with such violence as wounded him, and caused a great effusion of blood.

Matters growing thus high, and notice being taken concerning the Maid, that whileſt ſhe was within the houſe, the Stones flew inwards, and being in the yard, the Stones then came as faſt out of the houſe, ſtill following her; a miſtruſt came that theſe diſaſters were occaſioned by her; which made (by a general conſent of the Neighbors) that ſhe ſhould be ſearched, which accordingly was done, and (as I was told by ſome women in that employment) there was found under her arms the likeneſs of Warts (I will not ſay duggs) very freſh and red; whether ſuch things be ordinary with women (eſpecially thoſe of her age being but 14.) I muſt confeſs I am ſo much a ſtranger to that Sex, that I can onely plead ignorance unto it; and were it not for the opinion of ſome who will not believe there is any witches (although the Scripture confirms it) I ſhould not have taken this pains upon me, eſpecially having read ſo much for Confutation thereof in Mr. *Scot's Diſcovery of Witchcraft*, only this I ſhall ſay, that if there was nothing of VVitchcraft in it, it appears to me extraordinary wonderful.

One thing (which I had almoſt forget) that Mr. *Freeland* ſeeing his Windows go ſo to wrack, put up the ſhutters, but then the pewter in the houſe began to dance, and amongſt the reſt a Breader or Flower-Box, came off of the Shelf, and flew at a diſtance upon a mans ſhoulder, with ſo great force, as made him have good cauſe to remember it.

Many other things I might inſert in confirmation of what is already written, but if any remain diſſatisfied they may be certified by hundreds of ſufficient people thereabouts.

And

And now to return to those who are so opininative that there is nothing done by Witchcraft, first I shall produce these lines of the Poet.

Some Waters have so powerfull been
As could not only bodies change,
But even the very minds of men,
Their operation is so strange.

It is truth many Cheats have been done; which have passed for matters extraordinary, and many Stories I have read to that purpose; Which hath made many approved Schollers, to write against the vanities of Magicians, and Inchanters which boast they can do miracles, hear what *Cornelius Agrippa* himself saith, who dived as much into this secret as any in his age. *I have tryed oftentimes by the Witches and Conjurors themselves* (saith he) *that their arts (especially those which do consist of Charms, Impossibilities, Conjurations, and Witchcraft whereof they were wont to boast) to be meer foolishness, doting, lyes, and dreams*; and again in his book of Occult Philosophy he blameth his former practice of that art and assigneth the practisers thereof a place with *Jannes* and *Jambres*, by which it is doubted, (we see) by learned men, whether Magicians have such power as is ascribed to them or no, although no doubt witches have been in all ages; as we may read of the *Witch of Endor, &c.*

But some perhaps may think this passage needless to be inserted in such serious matters, but those who have

have consulted vvith Magick Books. As *Bodin*, *Cardanus*, lib. 15. and others, assert, that in their Magical Assemblies, the Witches never fail to dance, and in their dances they sing these vvords; Har, har, Devil, devil, dance here, dance here, play here, play here, And vvhiles they sing and dance every one hath a broom in her hand, and holdeth it up aloft, and as Mr. *Freeland* told me that vvhiles he stood in his shop, there came running betwixt his legs a pevvter dish (vvell bovvled that it broke not his shins) and that off of a Shelf in the Kitchen; certainly this Devil (if it vvere a Devil) as he vvas in part mischevious so he intermixed mirth vvithal.

To dravv tovvards a Conclusion, I knovv Readers vvill have a different Construction of this vvork; some judging that this might be only things Customarily done by Nature: others ascribing it to the highest pitch of Witchcraft, for my ovvn opinion, I do Imagine that there are such people as Witches, although it be stiffly denyed by many, and vvhether Mr. *Freelands* goods vvere bevvitched or no, I shall leave it to the Readers judgment; But this I am informed that as this trouble began on Friday last being the 20 of *July* 1666. about tvvo of the Clock in the afternoon, so about 11 at night, the Maid-servant being put avvay, these disturbances ceased and the house hath continued quiet ever since.

Being credibly informed that the Contents of these are true,

Anthony Dyer, *William Carter*, } Constables
Edward Lea,
William Lawsuiney.

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